already sanctioned loan of Rs. 69.74 crores to Kerala Agencies as on 29.2.92. In addition Government of Kerala has sought assistance of HUDCO for the construction of 10 lakhs houses in rural and urban areas of the State, envisaging loan assistance of Rs. 303 crores each year. Since resources of this magnitude are not available with HUDCO, it has requested State Government to undertake to borrow from HUDCO funds mobilised by it at market rates in the immediate future. Formal agreement in this matter has not been reached.

Open Cast Mining by ECL

5675. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal objected to he open cast mining by Eastern Coalfields Limited at Gangaramchak in Birbhum District in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the enquiry and the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (e). Irrigation Department, Government of West Bengal has raised objection to opencast mining at Gangaramchak on the apprehension to damage to Hinglow dam due to blasting vibration as well as damage to the canal and inspection path. ECL management had maintained that there is no cause for apprehending damage to the irrigation system due to opencast mining at Gangaramchak. The silting of the canal was normal and the alleged obstruction of canal was caused by villagers. The damage to the inspection path marginal. ECL has maintained that blasting vibration were not as heavy as to cause any damage to Hinglow dam. Because of the difference of opinion between ECL management and the Irrigation Department regarding apprehension of damage, District Magistrate, Birbhum had convened a meeting in August, 1989 at Kasta. During the meeting ECL management offered to undertake minor repair of the service road of the canal as the use of the service road by ECL was limited and coal trucks were no longer plying over the dam proper. It was also agreed that the question of likely damage to the dam due to vibration arising out of blasting would be referred to Central Mining Research Station (CMRS). Accordingly the matter was refereed to CMRS for investigation. CMRS report confirmed that vibration due to blasting in Gangaramchak would not cause damage to the Hinglow dam in as much as particle velocities were below the permissible limit. Subsequently damage to service road has since been repaired by ECL and they have also undertaken to repair damage to a culvert for which work order has been issued.

In April, 1990 reference was received from Government of West Bengal expressing apprehension about adverse effects mentioned above due to coal mining at Gangaramchak. Based on the above facts, in July, 1990 the Government of West Bengal were informed that there should be no cause for concern about apprehended damage to dam /canal and other associated works arising from opencast mining operations.

Raniganj Coalfields

5676. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any Preliminary Status Report on

unstable areas of Raniganj Coalfield;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the cost involved in tackling the problems thereof;

(c) the steps taken to implement the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d). An apex Monitoring Committee constituted by Coal Indian Limited, consisting of District Magistrate, Burdwan, A. D. M., Asansol, local MPs and MLAs, representatives from Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Indian School of Mines, Central Mining Research Station and Eastern Coalfields Limited headed by Shri H. B. Ghosh, Ex. Director General of Mines Sotety is studying the status of stablisation of unsafe areas in Raniganj Coalfield. Appropriate action would be taken on receipt of the report remote of the Committee.

Neyvali Lignite Corporation

5677. DR. P. VALLAL PEYUMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made further amendments on technical and commercial points of contracts after the issuance of LOI in Neyvali Lignite Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government have waived LD clause for any contract; and

(d) if so, the number thereof and the amount involved in all the packages of TS-II Ist stage 3x213 MW?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d). The technical and commercial Parmaeters of any purchase contract and the determination of L. D. fall within the exclusive purview of Neyvali Lignite Corporation; the rol of the Government being confined to obtaining release of foreign exchange and assisting the undertaking in obtaining other statutory clearances, as may be required.

Alleged Malpractices in Neyveli Lignite Corporation

5678. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reported malpractices in purchase of spare parts by the Transport Department of Neyveli Lignite Corporation;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of spare parts purchased by that Department during January 1990 to December 31, 1991;

(d) the amount involved in the purchase;

(e) whether any malpractices were found in disposal of old spare parts by the department of NLC; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). In January, 1991 a reference was received in the Ministry of Coal alleging, inter-alia, malpractices in the purchase of spare parts in the transport division of Neyveli Lignite Corporation. NLC management was asked to enquire into the matter. A fact finding Committee was formed by NLC for the purpose. The Committee could not come to any conclusion as to any ostensible malpractices as alleged.